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REMARKS

Claims 17-36 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. A listing of all pending claims is found at pages 2-5 of this Reply. Claims 17, 30, and 34 have been amended herein.

The subject amendments clarify aspects of the subject claims in order to more clearly emphasize novel features of applicants' claimed invention as clearly described in the specification. Accordingly, now new search is believed to be required by the Examiner.

Applicants' representative notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 20-22, 32, and 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants' representative respectfully reserves the right to amend the claims in such a manner at a later date if necessary. However, such amendments are not believed to be necessary at present in view of the comments and amendments presented herein.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 17-19, 23-31, and 34-36 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 17-19, 23-31, and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Binnard (U.S. 6,650,079). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons. Binnard does not disclose each and every element set forth in the subject claims.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the...claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

The present invention relates to motors, and in particular to a path arrangement for a multi-track linear motor and a method of controlling movement of a stage between different tracks in a linear motor system. Independent claim 17 has been amended to set

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forth, "A system that routes a stage along a selectable path, comprising: a first path with a plurality of armature windings disposed in a surface thereof; and at least second and third paths *that branch away from and are separate from the first path* with armature windings disposed in surface(s) thereof and coupled to the first path *via* an intersection with armature windings disposed therein." Independent claims 30 and 34 have been amended to set forth similar aspects. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 9-11: "According to one aspect *the path includes a first path portion and two or more other path portions that branch from the first path portion.*" The aspect of second and third *paths that branch away from the first path* are presented to clarify aspects previously set forth in the claims. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Binnard does not describe such aspects of the subject claims.

Binnard relates to a method of moving a planar electric motor over a plate of coils to which various currents are applied to energize the coils and move the motor. The Examiner contends that overlapping groups of coils can be paths, and that each coil can be an intersection between paths. However, Binnard clearly does not disclose separate paths that are connected by an intersection as set forth in the amended claims.

In view of such, it is readily apparent that Binnard does not anticipate applicants' invention as set forth in independent claims 17, 30, and 34 (and claims 18, 19, 23-29, 31, and 35-36, which depend respectively there from). Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

10/826.11100AN171GCONCLUSION

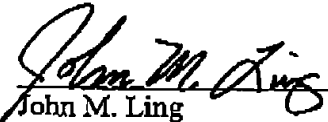
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 (ALBRP144USG).

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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